

Literary Paper Assignment

The Skinny: Short essays are your bread and butter in the humanities and social sciences. In this evaluation activity, you are going to plan, compose, edit, and publish a short (about 4 paragraphs) literary insight paper EITHER with a narrow focus on an aspect of ONE of our stories, OR comparing one element from two of our pieces of short fiction.

*****Due Date: Thursday February 12, 2015*****

Here's what you're going to do:

Choose whether you're going to focus on ONE story or TWO. Choose your focus. Choose your story(ies), plan and compose a short essay in defence of a thesis statement, rigorously edit and proofread your work, and submit the final draft in class.

Here are some things to think about when choosing your focus – these are just suggestions and are not mutually exclusive:

theme, character development, symbol(s), narrative structure, genre, setting, imagery, contemporary significance, motif, style, allegory, etc.

The aim of this assignment is that you produce a clean, clear, and concise product of a close reading of fiction in support of a convincing and sophisticated **thesis statement**.

You MUST include direct examples and well integrated **quotations** from your text in your essay. If you're using two stories, make sure you give each story equal attention in this piece. Choose a focus suitable for such a small paper.

You will submit your essay in 12 point font (Times New Roman or Garamond), double spaced, with page #s at the top right corner. You should have proper essay format regarding margins, student information, and presentation – ***do not write on your essay***.

Your essay will be between 750-1000 words. This will be strictly enforced.

****While you are expected to use quotations in this paper, you will be excused from rigid MLA style citation, as you were provided the stories in class – simply put the author's last name in (brackets) at the end of a sentence with a quotation.**

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Your stories:

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1) <i>Hi Champ</i> by Hubert Selby Jr. | 5) <i>Hills Like White Elephants</i> by Ernest Hemingway |
| 2) <i>The Necklace</i> by Guy de Maupassant | |
| 3) <i>Soldier's Home</i> by Ernest Hemingway | 6) <i>Shooting an Elephant</i> by George Orwell |
| 4) <i>A Good Man is Hard to Find</i> by Flannery O' Connor | |

Here's your marking scheme:

*** (it's SUPER helpful to use this as a checklist in your editing process!!!)

Knowledge and Understanding /20

- supporting plot details are correct and well selected
- proper essay format used
- thesis statement is an argument, not a statement of fact
- proper structure and use of introduction/conclusion paragraphs
- quotations and direct examples are used to support each point

Thinking /20

- sophisticated and appropriate choice of thesis for this paper
- relevance of supporting textual evidence and quotations (best choices!)
- strength of organization and development of thesis defence
- strong choice of thesis for story selection(s)
- analysis is the bulk of your writing – NOT plot summary

Communication /20

- clarity and organization of the essay (development/defence of argument)
- sentence structure is sound
- appropriate use of grammar, punctuation, and spelling
- quotation integration (quotations do not have their own sentences!)
- sophisticated and elegant word choice (no casual language/slang)

Application /20

- paper is formatted properly (MLA)
- paper is formally presented (you didn't write on it/no wrinkles)
- paper is connected to elements of the human condition outside of the selected text (author's intentions)
- evidence of rigorous editing and proofreading (no first drafts!)

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